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## Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Wise Creator, the architect of destinies, on this Super Tuesday 2016, when a dozen States hold their Presidential nominating contests, we look to You. You are the potter, and we are the clay. So mold and make the destiny of this Nation conceived in liberty. Let Your will be done.

Lord, we acknowledge that Your thoughts are different from our thoughts and Your ways are far beyond anything we can imagine. For just as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are Your ways higher than our ways and Your thoughts higher than our thoughts. Give us the wisdom to not second-guess the unfolding of Your loving providence, but help us to remember that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You.

Today, as You desire, use our law-makers and all those who love freedom as instruments of Your glory.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 1, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY AND COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, and I will meet with President Obama later this morning. We will reiterate that the American people will have a voice in the vacancy on the Supreme Court as they choose the next President, who in turn will nominate the next Supreme Court Justice.

In other words, we will observe the Biden rule. Americans have by now become well acquainted with that advice from the Vice President.

Americans also know what both the current and future Senate Democratic leaders have had to say about judicial nominees when a different party was in the White House. They have heard the admonishment of the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, that “nowhere in [the Constitution] does it say the Senate has the duty to give presidential nominees a vote.” They know the Senator from New York didn’t even wait until

the final year of President George W. Bush’s term to declare that the Senate should “not confirm a Supreme Court nominee except in extraordinary circumstances.”

So look, let’s use this debate to discuss ways we can work together to make progress for our country, such as tackling a drug crisis that is tearing communities apart in all 50 States.

I was pleased to see colleagues join together to advance the bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act just yesterday. I hope we will see that kind of cooperation continue. It is important for our country, and I look forward to discussing with the President how his administration can be helpful.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republicans, in an effort to try to cloud the issue regarding selection of the Supreme Court replacement, usually don’t provide a full quote. For example, they keep talking about Senator BIDEN, but they should give the whole statement of Senator BIDEN, where he ended it by saying that “compromise is the responsible course, both for the White House and for the Senate. . . . [and] if the President consults and cooperates with the Senate . . . [on] his selections . . . then his nominees may enjoy my support, as did Justices Kennedy and Souter.”

Yesterday the Washington Post published an editorial by Barbara Perry, a professor at the University of Virginia and an expert on the Supreme Court. It is among the finest law schools in all the world. That is the University of Virginia.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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